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exhausted the materials immediately at hand, Mr. Alvord has been able to draw to a focus a number of divergent lines of research so as to throw new and unexpected light on many obscure portions of our middle west history.

Two related fields now lie open to the student who is to follow up what has been gained by still further investigation. One of these lines of inquiry may be found in the Appalachian area, where since the beginning of the eighteenth century a famous group of pioneers and Indian fighters had been gradually mustering their numbers for an advance upon the fertile areas at the west. We know relatively little of the origins or of the nature of the migration into this plateau and mountain wilderness on our colonial frontier, or of the causes that so long postponed its advance into the Ohio valley. But the method of research presented in this work and the results that have been accomplished have gone far to clear the way for such a study. The second task that seemingly lies before the student of western history is bound up with the evolution of that early trading center and frontier post of St. Louis into the metropolis of later years. These chapters in our national history that seem to follow naturally on the appearance of the present work will in turn become the starting points for other and later studies that for the most part have hardly yet been projected.

Western historians are certainly under a considerable obligation to Mr. Alvord for his present contribution. The clear-cut and incisive manner in which he has handled a difficult subject marks his initial venture into an unexplored territory as a distinct advance in the field of national history.

O. G. LIBBY

Wisconsin losses in the civil war. A list of names of Wisconsin soldiers killed in action, mortally wounded or dying from other causes in the civil war, arranged according to organization, and also in a separate alphabetical list. Edited by Charles E. Estabrook; Duncan McGregor and Orlando Holway, associate commissioners. (Madison: Printed by the state, 1915. 343 p.)

This compilation is an addition to the body of information published by state and patriotic societies which, if accurately and exhaustively done, is valuable both to students of civil war military statistics, and to the officials of the war department and the pensions bureau in supplementing their records.

The list of losses is arranged according to organization, is grouped according to the cause within each regiment or battery, and gives the name, rank, and place and date of death in each case, as it is found in the report of adjutant general of Wisconsin for 1865, supplemented by

“such other names as the records show should have been included” (Preface). It is not stated what these records are, or how many corrections or additions have been made, except as indicated in three footnotes which refer to a circular of inquiry of the department of interior, June 7, 1866 (p. 210); a muster roll (p. 220) and a statement that the report of one death is “unofficial” (p. 124).

A table at the end of each regimental or battery list shows how many were killed in action, and the number of deaths due to wounds, disease, or accident. Other causes, occasionally indicated in footnotes, are always included in one of these four totals, but without any attempt at consistency. Accidental deaths are sometimes included in the “disease” total (pp. 32, 104). Drowning and suicide are usually accidents, sometimes diseases (pp. 41, 57, 98, 115, 151 *et passim*).

The total losses by each of the four causes, as the tables stand without correction, show that about 20% were killed in action, 11% died of disease, 68% died of wounds, and 2% died of accident or other causes. These results, however, are to be obtained only at the expense of considerable labor in computation, for no statement of totals is given except those for each organization. A table of the “Deaths in the United States army during the war of the rebellion,” which is a “Copy of a circular compiled by the officials of the war department, U.S.A.,” and which classifies deaths under thirteen instead of four causes, is inserted at the end of the book under the title “Summary.” A few well selected tables of results would greatly increase the value of the book. The number of officers killed can be found only by counting them up. There is no statement of the number who served in the Wisconsin forces during the war, and the percentage of deaths among them can be obtained only by comparison with other sources of information.

Errors in proof reading are numerous throughout. The comparison of a hundred names, selected at random from the alphabetical index with the regimental lists, disclosed ten discrepancies in spelling or initials, and two names not included in the lists to which reference is made. References are not to pages, but to regiments, and the reader is left to locate the name somewhere in any one of four groups extending usually over several pages.

On the whole it may be said that the *Wisconsin losses in the civil war* is an attempt to do a piece of work valuable to a limited and specialized body of students or officials who require accuracy as a prime essential, which is much marred by careless proof reading and editing, by failure to indicate sources of information, and by failure to tabulate and discuss the results.